

Straight Supporter

If 7,000 gay and lesbian protesters descended on Sacramento last Friday, what was the total number of protesters? Or did Michael Colbruno assume that outrage over Wilson's veto of AB 101 was confined to gays and lesbians? As one who is not gay, I see gay rights as an issue that affects us all.

David Zebker

We apologize for being insensitive and pledge to be ever mindful of our supporters committed to building coalitions with our community.

—Editor

Boasting About Barbara

The recent rally against violence that took place in the Castro was a wonderful event. Following two months of heated political bickering and canibalism within the lesbian/gay political community and the legitimate sense of outrage following the veto of AB 101, I thought that the rally was healing and necessary.

In my mind the real "star" of that rally was not Jesse Jackson. Jesse's speech was powerful, but as a former Jackson campaign aide for lesbian and gay issues I knew that he would offer his unwavering support once again. The real star of the rally was Barbara Cameron, the Executive Director of CUAV (Community United Against Violence).

News accounts of Barbara's riveting speech have not done it justice. She spoke about living with the threat of violence as a child and the devastating effects that prejudice and bigotry can have. It is true that she did not condone the violence that took place after the veto of AB 101, but she also expressed frustration that the straight community always focused more on violence done to buildings rather than the violence that is a daily reality for the lesbian/gay community.

Barbara also spoke about 18 years of living in the Castro and offered the observation that she has never seen the lesbian/gay community attack each other as viciously as has been done this year in the name of electoral politics. She offered the bleak vision of lesbians and gay men no longer needing bigots to bash us since we were doing such a good job ourselves. Finally, Barbara called for an end to the self-bashing and for a sense of respect and care for one another.

It is ironic that Barbara has been accused of playing partisan politics when the point of her speech was to call for an end to the atmosphere of bitter partisanship that now flourishes. If there is a cause for outrage following the rally, it is that someone with the integrity of Barbara Cameron is now seen as fair game at the very time she has called for healing. The bitter irony is that the charges of partisanship are being made by those who have nothing to gain by these accusations other than the election of their particular candidate.

If there is a cause for concern maybe we should deal with the threats to disrupt the rally made by the mayoral campaign of a woman who is said to be a "friend" to our community. If there is a need for outrage maybe we should talk about the questionable involvement once again of a **certain Britt aide and No on K staffer** in the egging of Rev. Jackson's car during

the rally. But of course such discussions would be considered hopelessly partisan.

I fault no one for supporting a particular candidate that has been one of the routes of our own empowerment. It is our legacy from people like Harvey Milk and Jim Foster. But the questions that Barbara Cameron raised implicitly in her speech have yet to be addressed. What limits do common sense and fairness place on partisanship and how far can we go in promoting a particular candidate and still maintain a sense of community?

Randy Miller, SF
Former National Gay/Lesbian Issues
Coord.
Jackson '88

Jean's Lackeys

It is ironic that Angela Alioto's field manager, Jean Harris, should chose to threaten violence against the Community United Against Violence rally. Her darkly ambiguous remarks about potential trouble seemed to indicate she might call out her lackeys in Queer Nation if Angela was not allowed to speak.

At a non-political event Angela did indeed get to deliver a mayoral stump speech. Unfortunately Queer Nation still felt they had to do some acting out. They egged Jesse Jackson's car.

I'm sure the Rev. Jackson might have expected this in Orange County, or perhaps in the South, but in San Francisco? He now understands we have our own version of brown shirts. Their goal is intimidation just like in the past. And if it's egging Jackson's car or trashing a gay supervisor's house it really doesn't matter. What Jean Harris wants Jean gets.

Mark Dunlop
San Francisco

Doubletalking Damsel

Has our community gone mad?

Angela Alioto told the *Chronicle* that the demonstrators who trashed the State Building should be arrested. "If the law is being violated," she said, "you arrest people."

Alioto came to the Castro and told us that we had no reason to apologize for trashing the State Building. Many people cheered her.

What? Last year, some people in our community were duped by Pete Wilson's doubletalk. It seems this year, some people in our community are being duped by Angela Alioto's doubletalk.

Wake up. This is the same Alioto who just one month ago called Frank Jordan, "A fabulous, fabulous police chief." She's been endorsed by the Police Officers Association (POA), has a meager record of leadership on our issues.

Wake up. Don't be duped. Our community has never gone anywhere led by a doubletalker.

R. Christopher Horak
San Francisco

Pesos for Pete

Dear Governor Wilson:

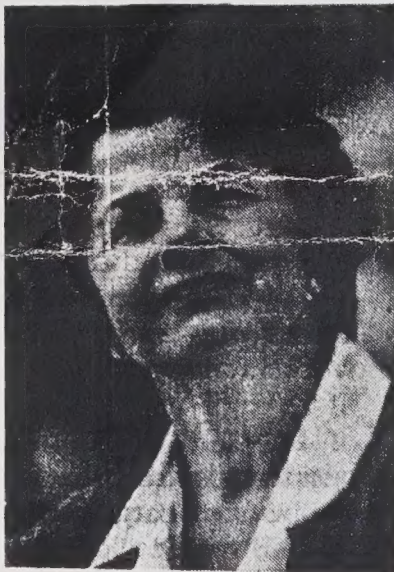
Enclosed is my check for two cents, payable to the state of California. This represents my share (\$250,000 damage divided by 26 million Californians), as well as your share of the damage to state property in the Monday night riot in San Francisco.

I am sending my share so you will know that there are responsible citizens of this state who still condemn your hate-filled

and misguided veto of AB 101, the gay civil rights bill. Your share I am paying so you need not agonize over your guilt and responsibility for aiding and supporting the continued "Queen-bashing" done by people like you and the radical right. This is the sort of bigotry which led to the unfortunate, but well justified, anger that spilled into violence Monday.

Shame on you!

Gary Dean Lindsay
San Francisco



TOM ALTMAN

Doubting Dianne

That somehow never-disappearing remnant of Feinstein fans has been smugly working the corridors of gay San Francisco the past few exciting weeks, turning on the I-told-you-so tones about how if we'd only worked harder for their pal when she was running for governor last fall, we'd for sure have a statewide civil rights bill instead of a statewide civil rights riot. As if Pete Wilson were the only politician who'd ever let gay people down.

It's timely to remind them and ourselves that Dianne, after promising us the moon to get 80 percent of the gay vote in a tight 1979 mayoral election, managed to fulfill very few promises over the next eight years, and in 1982 to produce her own anti-gay veto—of domestic partners legislation. It took us eight more years to overcome her prejudice against our relationships.

Like Pete she has always had her eye at least as much on her next job as on her current constituents, and both see jobs far beyond California, so both have a pretty consistent record of promising us, using us, then dumping us whenever there is a vote or a buck to be gained by looking "moderate" (read: not treating gay, lesbian and bisexual people as the full equals of straights).

I, for one, resolve no longer to be fooled by Feinstein or her friends, and to look for someone with a genuine respect for my full humanity when I vote for U.S. Senator next June.

Alan Weaver
San Francisco

Admiring Angela

Votes are compelled to admire Angela Alioto's mayoral candidacy so early in her career. To become a viable opposition worthy of City Hall Room 200, Ms. Alioto should reconcile certain perceived inconsistencies in her loyalties:

1. Positioned as an environmentalist in this particular election, she is on record as early as December 1985 *opposed to Dianne Feinstein's Downtown Plan as an infringement on developers' rights*. Is Ms. Alioto, decrying "Downtown Dianne" for intruding on developers' rights, slated to go down in history as "Asphalt Angela?"

2. She courts the city's minority vote. Yet in a quite different setting, at the September 4

candidates' night at the more mainstream (Marina/North Beach) North By Northwest Democratic Club, she effusively praised Frank Jordan as having been a "fabulous chief of police." She thereby disregards the bitterness of both the Latino and bisexual/lesbian/gay communities toward Jordan's police department, which was rocked by the scandals of the Dolores Huerta beating and the 1989 police sweep of the predominantly gay Castro district.

Ms. Alioto needs to clarify these perceived inconsistencies in order to win my vote.

J.D. Rosin
San Francisco

Frank's Fag

With two "October Surprises—" 1) Governor Pete Wilson's reprehensible veto of AB 101, demanded by the state's Catholics, fundamentalists and Mormons; and, 2) Professor Anita Hill's character assassination of Judge Clarence Thomas, dictated by the Senate's Biden, Kennedy and Metzenbaun - now behind us, we must focus our attention on "November's Challenge" - the mayoral victory of candidate Frank Jordan, determined by the city's responsible, informed electorate.

Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco

Justified Anger

The October 10, 1991 *Sentinel* carried a number of letters regarding the protests surrounding the veto of AB 101. A couple of these letters are particularly insulting to those of us who care enough to do more than just bitch about queer rights, but are willing to carry the struggle for social justice into the streets.

Edisol Dotson's letter, "Start By Accepting Ourselves," is a particularly pathetic bit of assimilationist phlegm. Essentially, the author condemns the "violence" that was a part of the protests and argues that queer civil rights will not be merited until some mythical form of total harmony is achieved within the queer community. "It is unfair that we expect non-homosexuals to accept us," Dotson claims, "when we cannot, unanimously, accept ourselves." This is sickening, slave-mentality reasoning.

Our rights as individuals are *not* conditional. I do not merely expect, but *demand*, that "non-homosexuals" accept me, and that demand does not depend upon how well I—or any queer—behaves. I do not have to "earn" my rights by "being good."

In his letter, "Senseless," Duane Wakeham also condemns the "property damage" that occurred on September 30th. In particular, Wakeham mourns the loss of what he describes as "a major work of art"—the stained glass entrance to the Old State Building, destroyed by a small group of protestors. Frankly, that entrance had all the charm and beauty of the Embarcadero Freeway. It looked like something a 10-year-old child made with a craft kit from K-Mart. When this "major work of art" was intact, you actually had to get very close to it in order to see that it was, in fact, glass and not plastic or colored Saran Wrap. Wakeham claims the building's entrance created "a visually and aesthetically exciting place." Right. The lobby was about as aesthetically exciting as a Pizza Hut.

Of course, just because something is tacky doesn't justify its destruction. But I wonder . . . If Duane Wakeham

Senate Committee on Elections and Reapportionment

Thought you might like a copy.



BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE

Barbara Cameron of Community United Against Violence with one of the group's signs

Signs to Fight Gay-Bashing

Group will put billboards at S.F. bus stops to publicize attacks

By Jamie Beckett
Chronicle Staff Writer

Imagine you are waiting at a lonely bus stop one evening when you see a billboard with this headline: Gay Man Shot From Passing Car at Van Ness & Market.

That corner, it turns out, is the very spot where you are standing. Even if you're not gay, wouldn't you feel just a little bit vulnerable?

The people at San Francisco's Community United Against Violence hope so. Later this month, the nonprofit advocacy group will sponsor the nation's first advertising campaign aimed at reducing violence against gays and lesbians — incidents of which are rising annually.

"Our intent is to shock people into the overdue realization that the threat of homophobic violence is present for everyone, everywhere," said Andrew Mead, a member of the group's board of directors. "It's not just gays and lesbians who are attacked. Anyone who is mistaken for gay or

who is in an area perceived to be gay is at risk."

The billboards, to be displayed at dozens of bus stops in San Francisco, will contain brief descriptions of incidents of anti-gay violence, the phone number for Community United Against Violence and a 24-hour hotline for those who need immediate assistance.

The descriptions, culled from the group's files, are chilling. "Two guys just walked up and started beating me," says one. "I got huge bruises on my eyes and body. I still have blurred vision. Vertigo. Now I'm afraid to be alone."

Other victims tell of being shot with a pellet gun or being thrown through a windshield.

The billboards are intended to teach people about hate crimes and about Community United Against Violence, said Barbara Cameron, the group's executive director.

The number of San Francisco anti-gay threats and assaults reported to the group jumped 29

percent last year to 425. Of those, 54 percent were physical assaults. One quarter of the incidents occurred in the Castro District. Nationally, the number more than tripled to 7,031 between 1985 and 1989, the most recent year for which figures are available.

"We suspect the reports we receive are just the tip of the iceberg," said Cameron. "We want people to start reporting so they can get services."

Community United Against Violence provides victims of violence with short-term counseling and crisis intervention. The group also serves as go-between for victims with police, courts and other parts of the criminal justice system.

In addition to the corner of Van Ness and Market, billboard locations will include bus stops along Polk Street, Mission Street, Geary Boulevard, near Dolores Park and at Ninth and Market streets. The ads were created for free by the ad agency of Young & Rubicam in San Francisco, and billboard space was donated by Gannett Outdoor Media.

Joseph de Nobili was dedicated to his mother. So when she died in 1975 at age 92, he wanted to give a lasting gift: preservation.

De Nobili, a 76-year-old retired doctor, worked 15 years on a protective liquid formula in which to immerse his mother, Lena. In the meantime, he kept her body refrigerated at Harbor Lawn-Mount Olive Mortuary.

With the project nearing completion in 1990, de Nobili traveled to Italy for prostate surgery. As he recovered, Harbor Lawn employees disconnected the refrigerator his mother was in and shipped her body for burial in San Diego, where she had died.

De Nobili filed a breach of contract lawsuit December 31 in Orange County Superior Court seeking damages from Harbor Lawn. His mother now is stored in a crypt in a Los Angeles mausoleum.

"My mother's body had been there (Harbor Lawn) for more than 12 years, and everything was going very well when this happened," de Nobili told the Orange County Register. "That's what they did in my absence."

But Harbor Lawn general manager Abel M. Fischer said that the mortuary had not received \$500 monthly storage payments from de Nobili since 1984.

De Nobili's contract with Harbor Lawn was intended only for temporary storage, mortuary attorney Steven A. Fink said.

De Nobili insisted the contract would allow him to keep his mother in storage for as long as it took to finish his work. He said he intended to pay for the storage after her final immersion.

Harbor Lawn first went to San Diego County Superior Court seeking permission to remove the body from storage in 1989.

In December 1990, a San Diego judge ruled that the body could be removed. The body was taken to San Diego County for disposal as the coroner there saw fit. De Nobili immediately retrieved it from the coroner.

De Nobili said the body survived the unrefrigerated ride to San Diego undamaged because he had been treating it regularly with his solution.

Now completed, the solution prevents growth of bacteria that break down tissue and cause decay, de Nobili said. An accompanying special crypt would be opened with keys to permit viewing, he added.

"After a person spends his earthly life doing good, helping people, I don't believe he deserves to be buried and covered with earth," he said. "I think this inven-

tion honors the dignity of the hu-

were agnast last spring when they learned that their bosses in Washington were allowing NBC news camera crews to join a stakeout of the largest heroin shipment ever seized in the United States.

Investigators said they secretly monitored the heroin cache, which was stowed in a Hayward warehouse, for a month — worrying all the while that the presence of reporters could ruin the case.

"I couldn't believe it was happening," said a customs agent in San Francisco, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The investigators' fears have materialized: Prosecution of the "China white" heroin case is being jeopardized by a legal battle over the government's agreement with NBC and the footage the network's news crews collected.

Whatever the outcome, the dispute is likely to prompt the media and government alike to reexamine the way they do business. The case is rife with First Amendment and ethical issues: whether there are any proper boundary lines between news reporters and criminal investigators, and what, if any, rules of the game exist for a free and independent press.

Attorneys for the suspected drug smugglers say that to protect their clients' rights to a fair trial, the network should hand over the tapes for use in trial — in case the tapes may contain some material that would exonerate the suspects.

The network has refused to turn the tapes over, citing First Amendment protections granted to the press.

And the Justice Department has been reluctant to subpoena the tapes — fearing it will be seen as heavy-handed, and partly because Customs Service officials had allowed the news crews to join the drug stakeout in the first place.

U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker in San Francisco has scheduled a hearing Wednesday to try to break the stalemate. The judge already has threatened to

As of Friday, federal prosecutors and attorneys for NBC News were still mired in negotiations over the dispute.

The first court threat to the case came last month when Walker ruled that the network had worked so closely with the investigators that its actions were tantamount to those of a "government agent." Thus, the judge said, the government has the duty to gather all the evidence collected at the site, including the NBC tapes.

Customs officials in Washington contend that they reluctantly entered into an agreement with NBC because the network had learned that the government had intercepted about half a ton of "China white" heroin at the Port of Oakland on May 20. Customs officials said the network threatened to immediately air a story unless given access to the surveillance operation.

According to an agreement struck between the agency and the network, customs agents met two NBC camera crews at the San Francisco airport and took them to the Hayward warehouse.

For the next month, the camera crews camped out at a nearby motel and shot footage of suspect visiting the site. At one point, a customs supervisor used an NBC camera to tape footage for the network. When the suspects were arrested, NBC aired a story using some of its videotaped footage from the warehouse and some footage shot by customs agents.

On June 27, four residents of Blackhawk in Contra Costa County and a fifth suspect were indicted for drug smuggling.

"No one sought to protect the rights of the people charged here," said San Francisco attorney John Runfola, who represents Luc Chen, one of the defendants.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Kennedy said, "We're not hiding anything. I don't believe

S.F. Refugees Happy About Salvador Peace

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about three years, after conditions have stabilized and he has completed an education interrupted by the war.

Under the agreement reached New Year's Day, a U.N.-supervised cease-fire between war-weary guerrillas and the Salvadoran government will go into effect on February 1. The accords call for the guerrillas to disarm and be al-



